Excluding notings from RTI purview

1602. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to amend the RTI Act with a view to exclude notings and consultation process from the purview of the Act;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is strong public opinion against this amendment; and

(d) if so, the stand of the Ministry in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. Government have received representations expressing concerns about the proposed amendments. NGOs and Civil Society Organisations will be consulted on the proposed amendments before any final decision about amendments is taken.

State Government not implementing RTI Act

1603. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State Governments are not serious enough in implementing the Right to Information Act; and

(b) if so, the steps that are required on the part of the Central Government for redressing the genuine grievances of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Act casts statutory obligation on the States to implement the Right to Information Act. In order to ensure that the provisions of the Act are implemented in the States, State Information Commissions have been constituted by all the States to which the Act applies. The Information Commissions have power to impose penalty on the defaulting public information officers and to require the concerned public authority to compensate the complainant.

Human development index

1604. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) weather India ranked 134th out of 182 countries on the Human Development Index which was developed jointly by Amartya Sen and Mahbule-Ul-Haq in 1990; and

(b) if so, the reasons of such poor ranking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Though, there is no change in India's ranking in the UNDP's Human Development Index, 2009 (based on data up to 2007) as compared to previous year's ranking, however, there has been a consistent improvement in the HDI value from 0.427 in 1980 to 0.612 in 2007.

Special grant to Madhya Pradesh Government

†1605. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh Government has made a demand of special grant to bring the State in the category of leading State from the category of backward States;

(b) if so, the action being considered by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to sanctioned the grant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Planning Commission has not received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh for special grant to bring the State in the category of leading State from the category of backward States.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Food security scheme

1606. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) 2004-05, the BPL families are estimated to be 301.7 million which is 27.5 per cent of the total population which came down from 320 million i.e. 36 per cent of corresponding figure of 1993-94 thus the number of BPL people came down by 18.3 million or 8.5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that at the recent meeting held with States, the States have given a figure of 8 million of BPL people; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government will reconcile both the figures and implement the Food Security Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution data of the 61st Round of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) yields 301.7 million persons are living below the poverty line, which is 27.5 per cent of population of the country as a whole in 2004-05 as against the poverty ratio of 36% in 1993-94.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.